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Virgin welcomes RPC report on CrossCountry

Virgin Trains today welcomed the Rail Passengers Committee report into retaining the CrossCountry network in its current form and developing it to meet the growing demand for rail travel.

CrossCountry has seen massive growth in the last ten years, with passenger numbers rising from 10 million to 19 million a year. The increase follows introduction of a new train fleet over the past four years and implementation of a clockface timetable in September 2002. Also, the number of weekday services has been increased from 670 trains a week in 1996 to its current level of 1,100.

The report makes the case for retention of the current network, which provides through journey opportunities to many parts of Britain without the need to change trains or travel through London.

Managing Director of CrossCountry Chris Gibb said: “I welcome the report’s findings which confirm the need to ensure that CrossCountry is retained as an integral part of the future rail network. Virgin has invested heavily in what was once British Rail’s Cinderella operation and turned it around.

“Currently, a great deal of uncertainty surrounds a possible radical reorganisation of CrossCountry which may be split between other operators. This report makes the case not only for retention of an integrated network, but also for investment in its future development. Virgin Trains is determined to participate in that future. We have brought the business a long way in the last eight years and we want to ensure that the CrossCountry success story continues.”

ENDS

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